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## Press Release

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### Proper child car seats must be used

HEIDELBERG, Germany – Vehicle child-restraint systems that do not conform to current Economic Commission for Europe regulations are no longer useable.

Because of inadequate safety provisions, child car seats that carry an ECE 44/01 and/or an ECE 44/02 label have been banned throughout Europe, said Christian Spille, a safety specialist with Installation Management Command-Europe.

In Germany, U.S. military-affiliated members are still allowed to use Department of Transportation-approved child restraint systems, but any non-DOT child-restraint system must be certified to new ECE 44/03 or ECE 44/04 testing procedures.

“Child-restraint systems certified under the earlier ECE 44/01 and ECE 44/02 standards are no longer legal and could result in a fine of 30 euro for their continued use,” Spille said.

The correct designations are easily validated by checking the seat’s label, which will have a multi-digit number placed below an encircled letter “E”. That figure must start with either “03” or “04”.

Besides the ECE regulation, a German ordinance on child car seats has been enforced for nearly 15 years. Those rules are:

\*If your child is under the age of 12 and shorter than 150 centimeters (59 inches), you must put them in an approved child-restraint system.

\*If your child is 150 centimeters or taller, you must use the approved seat belt system installed in the vehicle – not another restraint system such as a car seat or booster seat.

\*If your child is older than 12, regardless of height, you must use the approved seat belt system in the vehicle.

For more information, contact your installation safety office, or Army in Europe Regulation 190-1, “Driver and Vehicle Requirements and the Installation Traffic Code for the U.S. Forces in Germany.”